

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

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AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION GENEVA

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

CINCEUR

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SUBJ: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY -- FEBRUARY 25

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA SAYS THAT "ALL OF THE SORLDS ATTENTION

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IS CENTERED ON THE PARTY CONGRESS" , AND WE WOULD AGREE THT

AT LEAST THE SOVIET PRESS IS CERTAINLY FOCUSED ON THAT EVENT.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCANTY COVERAGE GIVEN OTHER
HAPPENING IN THE WORLD ARE:

-- PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CONTINUE TO PAINT THE
SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA IN UNFLATTERING COLORS,
QUOTING THE NYT CRITICISM OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WITH BRAZIL;

-- IZVESTIYA CRITICIZES THE FRG ROLE IN THE NATO ATLSA
EXPRESS EXERCISE, THOUGH PRAVDA SAYS NICE THINGS ABOUT THE
NEWLY PUBLISHED FRG "WORKING PAPER";

-- AND PRAVDA TURNS ATTENTION TO RECONSTRUCTION OF
ANGOLA'S ECONOMY, SAYS THAT ANGOLA'S "LIBERATION" IS IN-
CREASING SOUTH AFRICA'S MILITARY SPENDING, AND REPORTS
BRIEFLY THE OPENING OF THE OAU SUMMIT. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY'S TRAVELS. PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA CARRY
IDENTICAL TASS ITEMS CONTINUING UNFLATTERING COMMENTARY ON
THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA. THE ITEM
CLAIMS THAT THE SOLE RESULT OF THE TRIP HAS BEEN SIGNATURE
OF THE U.S.-BRAZILIAN AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR INCREASED
CONSULTATIONS. TASS QUOTES THE NYT THAT THE AGREEMENT
AIDS BRAZIL IN ITS DESIRE TO "PLAY THE ROLE OF A SPECIAL
PARTNER" OF THE U.S., AND CLAIMS THAT OTHER "AMERICAN
OBSERVERS" FEAR THAT THE AGREEMENT "WILL CALL FORTH DISSATIS-
FACTION" AMONG OTHER LATIN AMERICAN STATES. TASS ALSO
REPLAYS THE NYT THAT THE NEW ACCORD WILL "STRENGTHEN OPINION
OF THE U.S. AS A SUPPORTER OF DICTORIAL REGIMES."

3. NATO/FRG. IZVESTIYA IN A TASS REPORT ANNOUNCES
THE BEGINNING OF THE ATLAS EXPRESS NATO EXERCISE IN
NORWAY, NOTING THAT "FOR THE FIRST TIME" FRG GROUND,
AIR AND NAVAL UNITS WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE
MANEUVERS. THE REPORT ADDS THAT FRG ARMED FORCES "HAVE
OCCUPIED THE LEADING POSITION AMONG EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF
THE NORTH ATLANTIC BLOC". IZVESTIYA REPORTS BRIEFLY EFFORT
BY ICELANDIC OPPOSITION PARTIES TO PUSH NO-CONFIDENCE
MOTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND THEIR DEMAND THAT ICELAND
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WITHDRAW FROM NATO. HOWEVER, IZVESTIYA ALSO REPORTS THAT THE
MOTION WAS DEFEATED. PRAVDA REPORTS THE PUBLICATION OF THE
FRG "WORKING PAPER" WITH EMPHASIS ON THAT DOCUMENT'S FAVORABLE
TREATMENT OF THE IMPROVEMENTS IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS.

4. AFRICA. PRAVDA'S COVERAGE OF ANGOLA IS TURNING TO ISSUE
OF ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COUNTRY, WITH ENTHUSIASTIC
REPORTS OF PROGRESS MADE SO FAR. PRAVDA NOTES COYLY THAT

SUCH SUCCESS HAS TO A LARGE DEGREE BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY "TRADE" WITH THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, NOTING THAT SOVIET AND OTHER COMMUNIST STATE VESSELS ARE NOW DOCKING THERE WITH "INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT, AGRICULTURAL HARDWARE, AUTOMOBILES, AND MEDICINE" IN THEIR HOLDS. IN A SEPARATE TASS ITEM PRAVDA CONTENDS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS INCREASING MILITARY SPENDING "BECAUSE OF THE SUCCESSES ATTAINED BY NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA." THE REPORT NOTES GRATUITOUSLY THAT SOUTH AFRICA USES THE SAME ARMSCLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AS DOES NATO, IMPLYING AN ORGANIZATIONAL TIE, AND ADDS THAT THE WESTERN NATIONS ARE OBSERVING THE UN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA ONLY IN THE BREACH. PRAVDA NOTES THE OPENING OF THE OAU SUMMIT IN ADDIS, REPORTING THAT AMONG THEMES BEING CONSIDERED THERE ARE A COORDINATED POSITION ON RELATIONS WITH THE "RACIST REGIMES" OF SOUTHERN AFRICA; "THE SITUATION IN THE WESTERN SAHARA"; THE COMORO ISLANDS; AND DJIBOUTI. NO MENTION IS MADE IN THE REPORT OF NATIONAL-LIBERATION STATUS FOR POLISARIO.

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